

# BRIDGEPORT EVENING FARMER

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## SOME RESULTS OF THE SPENDING POLICY

THE NATURAL results of the policy of debt and extravagance, upon which the city embarked three years ago, are so plain that their effects are anticipated in the Board of Apportionment and Taxation.

At least three members of the board expect that the rate, a year hence, will be 24 mills, and estimate that is under, rather than over, what may be expected.

Debt is expensive. It helps for a year or two, but, in the end, it means paying double for everything.

The makers of the debt policy were eager to cast aside the wisdom of the founders of Bridgeport, those broad minded and intelligent men who gave it its early growth, built up its first manufacturing institutions, and put it, so to speak, on the map of the world.

Men like the late William D. Bishop, the late David M. Read, and the late P. T. Barnum established for Bridgeport a policy of pay-as-you-go, a policy under which Bridgeport has prospered beyond most American communities.

Came the new generation of municipal statesmen, filled with a sub-conscious itch to have much public money to spend, and with vague notions of what the financial effect of a program of spending would be.

Out of the thin fog of their financial intelligence they seized the cry "debt and a 15 mill tax rate," and then, with all the energy of youth, began to borrow and spend, sometimes coaxing, sometimes threatening, but always hurrying every ounce of political power in their possession in the campaign for more bonds and more money to spend.

In the beginning these young and ardent spenders probably believed their enormous borrowing would enable them to provide a 15 mill tax rate, at least during their tenure of power. After that—well, after that, why should anybody care?

But they must soon have discovered the hiatus between their financial theories and the facts, or perhaps their own borrowing, and their huge spending exceeded what they had originally deemed possible. They soon began to delay some expense, while they shifted charges such as the charge for new grammar schools to borrowing. They seized the surplus fund, carried to meet emergencies. They delayed payment upon the state tax, and in other ways signified their knowledge that their borrowing was not consistent with a 15 mill rate.

The municipal statesmen have danced, there has been brave borrowing and braver spending, but the city must pay the fiddler.

In a few months the theory of debt and spending will be measured against the sounder policies of yesterday. When the times comes argument will be opposed, not by argument, but by a tight organization of a small minority who hold political places, who have received sinecures under the spending policy, most of whom have been welded into clubs in which they meet to eat and drink and be merry, while the cheerful cry goes round, "stick to the organization; who cares about the tax rate?"

## PROMISE MEASURED AGAINST PERFORMANCE

THE ATTITUDE of Mayor Clifford B. Wilson when he took office makes a surprising contrast, when measured against his conduct of his office.

The things in which he believed, and which he has not practiced, will be found in his messages, sent to the Common Council, while the flush of a desire to serve the people well was still upon his face.

He was especially interested that the city should purchase the many things needed by it in the lowest market, and at the lowest price.

His early messages are replete with expressions of this desire, especially where he considers the duties of the Board of Contract and Supply.

He is confident this board will justify the expectations of the taxpayers, it will save the city money. He thinks it should have broader powers. It should purchase everything. He even chides the Board of Education, because it buys coal on its own initiative, instead of through the Contract board.

In one message he declares the mayor should never sign a waiver to dispense with competition and bidding, except where there is an especial urgency, or "a great emergency," yet, when the purchase of hundreds of thousands of dollars of pavement is involved, he ignores the Board of Contract and Supply, fights like a tiger to induce the Paving Board, which ought to make such purchases, to abandon its charter duties; finally drives most of the members of the board to resign; continues in his efforts to buy a patented pavement without bidding until his action is restrained by the mandate of the courts; then avoids the judicial order, by seeking of the General Assembly legislation, stripping the paving board of its powers.

Three times has he ignored the Contract board in such cases. Three times has he signed his waiver to the advantage of the Warrenite vendors, and never has he declared an especial urgency, or a great emergency.

There was no urgency, no great emergency ever arose that required such action on his part.

Well may the citizens inquire into the conditions that have produced such a change in the views of their chief magistrate, whose theory of protecting the city treasury has been so satisfactory, but whose practice has been directly opposite.

In considering whether the city's infatuation for the Warrenite monopoly is a civic phenomenon of which they ought to be proud, the citizens will do well to consider the record of this monopoly in neighboring states.

They will remember the "three-finger" investigation in the Connecticut Senate, they will remember the malodorous developments of the investigation into the methods employed in building state highways in New York, and they will consider the plain facts developed by the New Jersey investigation, which have been laid before Farmer readers in such abundant detail.

## THE RIGGS BANK CASE

THE OPINION of the court in the Riggs bank case will be gratifying. The court says that the bank for a long

time had been doing grossly illegal things, and that the government was justified in demanding that it should cease its improper practices.

The court also declares, as indeed it was under a moral and intellectual necessity to do, that the practice of the treasury department by which government deposits are taken from speculative banks in the Wall street game, and put in commercial banks, which are engaged in helping industry, is a righteous practice and beneficial as a public policy.

The Riggs bank, like the Washington real estate ring, is better known in the Capital than it is to the nation at large. Those who know it will wonder what caused its officers to bring it into a court of justice.

## THE VERDICT FOR ROOSEVELT

EVERY RIGHT thinking citizen will be pleased with the verdict for Mr. Roosevelt. Here was a man called into court for doing his plain duty by denouncing a gross system of commercial politics, so common that it threatens the health of the nation, as a worm gnaws at the heart of an apple.

Mr. Roosevelt has his faults, of thinking, of logic, of temperament, but he honestly desires honest government for the benefit of the public, while Barnes, who sued him for libel, is a vulgar type of a common sort of political boss who is in politics for "what there is in it."

Barnes' alliance with Murphy, Barnes' enormous profits from printing business obtained from the State of New York, and Barnes' general attitude in public life were enough to convince the jury that Col. Roosevelt did the public a service, in making the charges he made.

The jury system would have been in sad disrepute had the verdict been otherwise.

## THE VALUE OF SCHOOL MUSIC

THE CITY EXPENDS a portion of its revenue that the young people may become acquainted with the rudiments of music, not for the purpose of fitting them for a career in music, but to bring into their lives the happiness which comes in understanding an art so vital to complete family and social happiness.

It is proper that the young people most gifted, or most inclined toward music, should form organizations for this purpose, such as the B. H. S. Girls' Glee club, which gave its first musicale Friday evening.

Such an organization as this, doing really creditable work, sets an example which others are sure to imitate. It helps the city to get the most for its expenditure in this field. The club should be continued and encouraged, for the benefit it will bring to the educational system, and for the stimulus it will be to a larger public interest in music.

Such organizations supplement the broader work done by the Oratorio society, which might, perhaps, see what it can do to stimulate and encourage the school music, from the standpoint of creating talent with which to renew itself, and increase its potency and usefulness in years to come.

## LOUIS OF BATTENBERG

H. S. H. Admiral Prince Louis Alexander of Battenberg, former First Sea Lord of the British Admiralty and one of the most distinguished of British naval officers, was born at Garmisch, thirty-one years ago today, May 24, 1884. He was the first-born son of Prince Alexander of Hesse and a grandson of Louis II, Grand Duke of Hesse. He was naturalized as a British subject and entered the British navy at the age of fourteen. He was a Lieutenant on the Inconstant in the Egyptian war, and in charge of a battery, landed with the naval brigade for the occupation of Alexandria. In 1904 he married his cousin, Princess Victoria, daughter of the Grand Duke Louis IV, of Hesse and Princess Alice, daughter of Queen Victoria. In 1904 he reached the rank of rear-admiral and in 1908, as vice-admiral, he was made commander of the Atlantic fleet. Later he was elevated to the exalted position of First Sea Lord, which he held until last October, when he resigned because of popular suspicion based on his Austrian birth and German connections. Until the present war Prince Louis was one of the most popular officers in the service. "Batts" and "All Serene" were his nicknames among the tars. Prince Louis has visited the United States and Canada. His hobby is printing, and when he visited a Baltimore newspaper office some years ago he was made an honorary member of a printer's union because of his skill in typography. Prince Louis is a brother-in-law of the Czar of Russia and of Princess Henry of Prussia, the Kaiser's sister-in-law. Prince Louis's mother was not of royal blood, and the Admiral is not "royal" in the technical sense, but he is related by blood and marriage with nearly all the reigning houses of Europe.

## STEEL RAILS

The first Bessemer steel rail made in America was rolled by the North Chicago Rolling-Mill Company from steel made at Wyandotte, Mich., just half a century ago today, May 24, 1865. This was the first of a series of experiments, and but six rails were made. Two years later a similar experiment was made by a New York mill from steel made at Troy, N. Y., but it was not until August, 1867, that the Cambria Iron Company began to roll Bessemer steel rails as a regular business, thus laying the foundation for a gigantic industry. Steel rails were first made and used in England. The first steel rail was laid on the track of an American railroad in 1862, the rails having been imported from Great Britain. The Pennsylvania railroad was the pioneer in this line, the original importation consisting of 100 tons, at \$50 gold per ton equivalent in civil war times to \$200 in American currency. These rails were made of crucible steel, and contained so large a percentage of carbon that many of them broke during the following winter. Despite this fact, the railway company ordered more steel rails from England, paying from \$135 to \$162.50 gold per ton in 600,000 ton lots.

The widow of Captain Otto Wodtgen, who lost his life when the British sank the submarine U-39, received a note of sympathy from the Kaiser.

Rear Admiral Moore at Honolulu wired the Navy Department that the total lift of the submarine F-4 since salvage work began was ninety-six feet.

## Alfalfa Yields and Water Requirements

The total consumption of water by alfalfa can be controlled to a considerable extent by pasture or frequent clipping without serious injury to the plants, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 248, "Effect of Frequent Cutting on the Water Requirements of Alfalfa and its Bearing on Pastureage." With a limited amount of stored moisture in the ground often the greatest amount of alfalfa can be obtained by allowing the crop to grow when the water requirement is the lowest, in the fall or spring, and by keeping the leaf surface at a minimum during the summer through clipping or pasturing. The efficacy of thus conserving the moisture during the periods of drought, has been observed many times.

Whenever the moisture supply falls short of the amount necessary to produce normal crops throughout the season, summer grazing appears to afford a simple and practical means of obtaining a return from alfalfa commensurate with the available moisture, and at the same time reduces the danger of drought injury. When the moisture supply is adequate for continuous crop production throughout the season, close pasturing or clipping would result in a marked reduction in the amount of alfalfa produced, is the opinion expressed in the bulletin.

When grazing is practiced greater production can be secured by intermittent grazing; that is, by employing several fields which are pastured in rotation. Summer pasturing with alfalfa is extensively adopted in Australia and the combined system of hay and pasturing has found much favor in New South Wales. It is carried out in the rolling plains country on loam or sandy soils where there is no possibility of sub-irrigation.

In the management of Australia alfalfa fields it is the practice to grow a crop of hay early in the spring and to pasture the alfalfa during the remainder of the year. For grazing purposes alfalfa is considered very valuable because it responds to summer rainfall, affording a cured grasses, being annuals, afford no late pasturing. In New South Wales alfalfa is handled under this combined system of hay and pasturing on some of the large ranches, and as high as three sheep per acre are carried during the summer, autumn and winter months. During early September in Australia, which is the early spring season there, the sheep are taken off and the alfalfa makes a luxuriant growth, affording a cured hay crop of approximately ten per acre. Thus the hay is procured when the weather is cool and the amount of moisture given up by the plant and soil is small. The crop being handled in this way makes the most efficient use of the water supply. Normal rainfall in this region is about 21 inches and is rather uniformly distributed, each month having more than one inch of rainfall, fact, only two months, June and October, which correspond to our December and April respectively, more than two inches.

Bulletin No. 223 shows by a large number of small area experiments that the above outlined methods of handling alfalfa might profitably, in some years, be adopted here in the United States.

Governor Whitman signed the bill consolidating the Workmen's Compensation Commission and the Labor Department into a State Industrial Commission.

## BALLINGER CASE IS NOLLED BY STATE'S ATT'Y. CUMMINGS

Man Accused of Assaulting Newtown Plumber Released Without Bail

(Special to The Farmer.) Newtown, May 24. George Ballinger's case for assault was nolleed by State's Attorney Cummings last week and the accused was released. He has returned to his position with J. P. Webster & Sons. The case against John Thomas, held in bonds of \$1,000, upon the same charge, it is expected, will be dropped also.

St. John's Guild supper Thursday night netted a fair amount for the guild treasury and the committee in charge return thanks to the public for the liberal patronage.

Malachuk Keating and William Keane of Danbury are guests for a week of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Keating, Huntington.

Miss M. Estelle Sprague of the Fairfield County Farm Bureau demonstrated the work of home canning before the agricultural class of the High school Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Kirk of Bridgeport motor to Newtown Sunday. They hope to join the summer colony here at an early date.

T. M. Hollan and T. J. Maloney have purchased new five passenger cars. The conveyance is building a new house on the Blanket Meadow road.

The number of dogs registered by the town clerk to date is 433, which compares favorably with the enrollment of last year.

Mrs. W. C. Kennedy and her child have returned from a visit of three days with her parents in Winsted.

The St. Rose's parish entertainment scheduled for May 31 has been postponed to a later date. The summer arrangement of masses will be in force Sunday, June 6.

Mrs. Herbert Robinson has applied to the county home for the return of her five-year-old son, Lorenzo, committed to the care of that institution by order of the probate court. It was sought at one time that the child was defective in hearing and mentality and the county authorities were waiting the passage of a bill by the general assembly establishing the status of such cases, which the legislature failed to do. Clarity workers here who have looked into the claims of the mother believe the mother is the proper one to have custody of her offspring, and they have appealed to the county commissioners direct for Mrs. Robinson. First Selectman E. D. Briscoe recommends this course.

Very few voters attended the borough meeting Saturday night owing to the storm, but a quorum was present and carried out the business.

## TRUMBULL

Mrs. Edgar Van Horn of Milford has been the guest for a few days of Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Wells.

Harry D. Gates and family of Bridgeport are at "Babbling Brook" for the summer.

Mrs. Charles Ensign entertained at her home Thursday afternoon when plans were made for a what to be called under the auspices of the town hall improvement society at the town hall on the evening of May 26.

Edwin Thornton, who has been in ill health for a long time, is in a critical condition.

The members of Trinity Episcopal church, Nichols, have obtained a site for their new parish house on the Peet property.

John Curtis has obtained a position in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Miss Ella Ward has returned to Nichols after spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Ward. She is recovering from a severe attack of ivy poisoning about her eyes and face.

The members of the women's class of the Nichols Hill gymnasium entertained their friends, Thursday night, at the final meeting of the class for the season. The gymnasium exercises that have been practiced during the term were performed under the direction of Miss Emma Franz, the teacher, and were well executed, showing careful instruction and interest by the class. Miss Franz was presented with a gold piece in token of appreciation of her teaching during the term. Much surprise, she responded with a short talk. Refreshments of sandwiches, lemonade and cake were served and dancing and a general social hour followed. The hall was decorated with apple blossoms and lilacs. Members of the senior and junior girls' classes and about 40 guests were present.

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

There was an unusually large attendance last evening at the pretty reception of the High school dancing class of Quilty's School of Dancing held in the Colonial Ball Room. Palms and other decorative plants were placed about the large hall and at one end there was a large palm garden where the dancers rested.

The reception committee was composed of the young ladies of the class, and included Misses Marguerite Scott, Margaret Douglas, Margaret Murren, Marion Hayes, Dorothy Hayes, Margaret Wilcox, Margaret Grandfield, Sophie Hubbard, Marguerite Thorpe, Arline La Hatt, Jennie Ormond, Sadie Quilty, Eva Quilty, Natalie Baker, Jennie Hays and Florence Moley.

The floor committee was composed of young men of the class and included Wesley Skinner, Louis Hodge, John Murren, James Murphy, William Gale, David Reid, John Owen, John Haley, Edward Leary and Francis Chaffield.

The patronesses of the evening were Mrs. W. L. Scott, Mrs. D. C. Quilty, Mrs. Fred Bratting and Mrs. L. F. Nettleton.

At 11 o'clock the grand march was formed with Miss Evelyn Shea and John Murren leading it and Prof. D. C. Quilty conducting it.

## MEDICAL CORPS HAS OUTING AT FARM

Fourteen members of the Medical Corps, C. A. C., C. N. G., held their annual field day and outing at Danville Farm yesterday where they participated under the direction of Major F. J. Adams in pitching tents, making litters and building fires. Leaving at 8:45 a. m. they returned at 4:30 in the afternoon.

The Belgian Relief Fund totals \$1,039,428.89.

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## Women's Handkerchiefs

Initial Handkerchiefs, pure linen with French hem and small block letter in pink, blue or lavender. 15 cts, 6 for 85 cts.

## Sweaters

for Men and Boys  
Al pure wool, in several different colors, which were originally \$3.00, \$2.00 to close out.

## Women's Silk Umbrellas

Special lot  
Pure levantine silk and a good assortment of fancy handles. These very good umbrellas once bore tickets at \$4.00 and \$5.00. They are now all marked, \$3.00 to close out.

At the Art Section. The June "Priscilla" on sale, 10 cts a copy. Subscription for a year \$1.00.

Announcement is Made of the Annual May Sale of Summer Furniture which opens Wednesday morning the twenty-sixth Verandah Chairs and Settees, Swing Seats and Swing Couches, Hammocks, Rockers, Settees and Tables. Details tomorrow. On the third and fourth floor.

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Silk flags 1c, 5c, and 25c.

Large fast color flags 25c to \$2.00.

All wool hunting flags.

Yachting flags.

Flagpoles 50c to 95c.

## BRIEF NEWS NOTES

While driving his automobile carrying his wife and eight-year-old son, at Keamsburg, N. J., William McCready of Jersey City fell dead over the steering wheel. His wife brought the car under control.

The United States submarine K6, which was ashore at No Man's Land Saturday night, was floated without damage.

Seventeen hundred prisoners sat in the rain at Ossining, N. Y., to see the Sing Sing prison baseball team defeat the Hudson Guild of Manhattan by a score of 13 to 9.

The battleship New Hampshire arrived at Newport with one of her propellers broken and her wireless masts gone by the board. It is believed she struck a derelict.

The submarine K-6 went aground on the east side of No Man's Land, while guarding the Atlantic Coast during the war game being played by the Atlantic fleet.

Apple, Jinsling and King's Gift, three valuable race horses belonging to James Butler, were killed by a bolt of lightning that struck the stables at Belmont Park, N. Y.

A warrant was issued at Battle Creek, Mich., for the arrest of United States Senator Charles E. Townsend, of Jackson, Mich., on a charge of reckless automobile driving.

Acting Mayor McAneny received a letter from the Nizam of Hyderabad, India, asking for a copy of the report of the heights of buildings commission. The request was granted.

Hat Creek Valley, California, threatened with destruction by the eruption of Mt. Lassen, was saved. The mud flow that followed the disturbances changed its course when near the valley.

Francis Burton Harrison, governor-general of the Philippines, and Mrs. Harrison visited President Tian Shikai at Peking.

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